

11b - SB 731 - FIN - MDH- LOSWA.docx.pdf

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Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

March 3, 2023

The Honorable Melony Griffith
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: SB 731 - State Board for the Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals – Sunset Extension - Letter of Support with Amendments

Dear Chair Griffith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of support with amendments for Senate Bill (SB) 731 - State Board for the Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals – Sunset Extension. SB 731 extends the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the Board for the Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals (Board) for three (3) years, until July 1, 2027.

MDH respectfully submits an amendment to shorten the sunset date for the Board from three (3) years to two (2) years. A sunset evaluation and extension is a tool to review existing laws and regulations governing the State's occupational and professional Boards. These reviews facilitate the careful consideration of the Board's purpose and operations, including ensuring that licensing is protecting public health and safety and that licensing is not overly broad or burdensome.¹ Of note, Chapter 511 of the Acts of 2019 eliminated Maryland's automatic 10 year sunset evaluations that were conducted by the Department of Legislative Services prior to extensions.² In its place, sunset evaluations are now conducted only when directed by certain entities.

MDH believes a more thorough evaluation of the Health Occupations Boards is needed at this time to assess ongoing concerns related to licensure, technology, and administrative functions. MDH believes a two (2) year sunset extension allows ample time for MDH and the Boards to examine these functions and return to the General Assembly in 2026 with an update.

If you have any questions please contact Megan Peters, Acting Director, Office of Governmental Affairs, at megan.peters@maryland.gov or (410) 260-3190.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary

¹ <https://www.ncsl.org/labor-and-employment/sunset-and-sunrise>

² <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/Legislation/Details/sb0640?ys=2019RS>

Amendment 1

On page 2, line 3: Strike **2026** and insert **2025**.

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Board for the Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

Krystal Hollan Board Chair – Darlene Ham, Executive Director
4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore MD 21215 Phone: 410-764-5996

2023 SESSION POSITION PAPER

BILL NO: SB 731
COMMITTEE: Finance
POSITION: Support with Amendment

TITLE: State Board for the Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals – Sunset Extension

BILL ANALYSIS: This bill, as written, would continue the State Board for the Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals (the “Board”) in accordance with the provision of Maryland Program Evaluation Act (sunset law) be extending the Board’s existence to July 1, 2027.

POSITION AND RATIONALE: The Board supports SB 731 with an amendment.

The State Board renews certification every two years. There are currently 71 active Certified Residential Child Care Program Administrators and 959 active Residential Child and Youth Care Practitioners. There are no outstanding licenses or renewals. The passing of this bill will ensure the continuation of the Board’s mission to protect children living in Maryland’s residential child programs and to promote quality of care in the field of residential childcare. The Board accomplishes these objectives by providing certification to Residential Child Care Program Administrators (RCCPA) and Residential Child and Youth Care Practitioners (RCYCP), regulating the certificate holders, engaging in the disciplinary processes of applicants and certificate holders when necessary and providing examinations to certificate applicants.

The Board supports SB 731 with amendment and respectfully asks to extend the termination provisions relating to the statutory and regulatory authority of the Board, to the following:

Amendment 1

Page 2, line 3: Strike **2027** and insert **2034**.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony. The Board for the Certification of Residential Child Care Program is respectfully requesting a favorable report on SB 731 with amendment.

If you require additional information, please contact Darlene Ham, Executive Director of the Maryland Board for the Certification of Residential Child Care Program Professionals at (410) 764-5911 or at Darlene.ham1@maryland.gov.

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.

